AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) Valacyclovir hydrochloride in anhydrous crystalline form having substantially the following d-spacing pattern (in angstroms):

d-spacing
6.76
9.36
11.54
13.98
15.45
15.75
17.12
19.10
21.39
23.02
24.23
26.41
27.46
28.06

2. (original) Valacyclovir hydrochloride in anhydrous crystalline form as claimed in claim 1 having substantially the X- ray diffraction pattern of Figure 2.

3. (original) Valacyclovir hydrochloride in anhydrous crystalline form having substantially the characteristic infrared peaks

IR (cm^{-1}) : 1686.42, 1572.60, 1533.52.

4. (original) Valacyclovir hydrochloride in anhydrous crystalline form as claimed in claim 3 having substantially the characteristic infrared peaks

IR (cm^{-1}) : 3377.99, 3285.87, 3197.62, 2930.92, 1749.72, 1686.42, 1631.12, 1607.17, 1572.60, 1533.52, 1476.48, 1364.98, 1298.63, 1258.79, 1248.27, 1225.22, 1132.81, 1097.06, 778.37, 759.33.

5. (original) Valacyclovir hydrochloride in anhydrous crystalline form as claimed in claim 3 having substantially the infra-red absorption spectrum of Figure 1.

6. (currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a valacyclovir hydrochloride form as claimed in claim 1 ~~to 5~~ along with one or more pharmaceutical carriers/ excipients.

7. (currently amended) Valacyclovir hydrochloride in anhydrous crystalline form as claimed in claim 1 ~~to 5~~ for use in medicine.

8. (currently amended) Use of valacyclovir hydrochloride in anhydrous crystalline form as claimed in claim 1 ~~to 5~~ in the manufacture of a medicament for use as an antiviral agent.

9. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of valacyclovir hydrochloride in anhydrous crystalline form as claimed in claim 1 ~~to 5~~ comprising;

1) mixing valacyclovir hydrochloride hydrate with a substantially pure C_{1-6} lower alcohol solvent and heating the resulting suspension;

2) evaporating the solvent under reduced pressure and isolating the resulting solid.

10. (original) The process of claim 9 wherein said solvent is ethanol.

11. (currently amended) The process of claim 9 ~~or 10~~ wherein the suspension is heated at between 50 to 70°C for at least 12 hours.

12. (original) The process of claim 11 wherein the suspension is heated at 60°C for 20-21 hours.

13. (original) A process for the preparation of valacyclovir hydrochloride in anhydrous crystalline form as claimed in claim 1 ~~to 5~~ comprising;

1) mixing valacyclovir hydrochloride hydrate with a substantially pure C_{1-6} lower alcohol solvent and adding the resulting suspension to substantially pure refluxing lower alcohol;

2) distilling off the solvent to form a suspension and maintaining the same at room temperature for at least 8 hours; and

3) isolating the resulting solid.

14. (original) The process of claim 13 wherein the solvent and refluxing lower alcohol are ethanol.

15. (currently amended) The process of claim 13 ~~or 14~~ wherein approximately one third of the solvent is distilled off to form said suspension.